CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components to a user, the apparatus comprising:

a first plurality of first design component samples;

a second plurality of second design component samples; and

a binding mechanism adapted to bind said first plurality of said first design component samples adjacent said second plurality of said second design component samples so that at least one of each of said first plurality and said second plurality can be viewed together, said binding mechanism configured to permit at least one design component sample of each of said first and second pluralities to be moved about said binding mechanism.

2. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 1, said apparatus further comprising a third plurality of third design component samples, wherein said binding mechanism is adapted to bind said third plurality of said third design component samples adjacent said second plurality of said second design component samples so that at least one of each of said first plurality, said second plurality and said third plurality can be viewed together and wherein said binding mechanism is configured to permit at least one design component sample of said third plurality of said third design component samples to be moved about said binding mechanism.

3. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 2, said apparatus further comprising a fourth plurality of fourth design component samples, wherein said binding mechanism is adapted to bind said fourth plurality of said fourth design component samples adjacent said third plurality of said third design component samples so that at least one of each of said first plurality, said second plurality, said third plurality and said fourth plurality can be viewed together and wherein said binding mechanism is configured to permit at least one design component sample of said fourth plurality of said fourth design component samples to be moved about said binding mechanism.

4. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 1, wherein said first design component samples and said second design component samples each comprise samples of a design component selected from the group of design components comprising colors, textures, patterns and materials.

5. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 4, wherein said first design component samples and said second design component samples comprise the same design component samples.

6. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 5, wherein said first design component samples and said second design component samples comprise the same design component samples and wherein said first plurality of said first design component samples are organized in a first sequence and said second plurality of said second design component samples are organized in a second sequence and said first sequence and said second sequence are different.

7. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 2, wherein said first design component samples, said second design component samples and said third design component samples each comprise samples of a design component selected from the group of design components comprising colors, textures, patterns and materials.

8. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 2, wherein said first design component samples, said second design component samples and said third design component samples comprise the same design component samples.

9. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 8, wherein said first plurality of said first design component samples are organized in a first sequence, said second plurality of said second design component samples are organized in a second sequence and said third plurality of said third design component samples are organized in a third sequence and said first sequence, said second sequence and said third sequence are different.

10. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 3, wherein said first design component samples, said second design component samples, said

third design component samples and said fourth design component samples each comprise samples of a design component selected from the group of design components comprising colors, textures, patterns and materials.

11. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 3, wherein said first design component samples, said second design component samples and said third design component samples comprise the same color samples and said fourth design component samples comprise color samples different from the color samples of said first design component samples, said second design component samples and said third design component samples.

12. The apparatus for presenting a plurality of design components of claim 1, wherein said binding mechanism comprises one selected from the group comprising a spiral binding, a comb binding, a ring binding and a tape binding.

13. A method of selecting a decorating scheme from a design component collection, the design component collection comprising a first plurality of design component samples and a second plurality of design component samples disposed proximate to said first plurality of design component samples so that one design component sample from the first plurality is viewable with one design component sample of the second plurality, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying together a first design component sample of each of said first and second pluralities of design component samples;

displaying a second design component sample of at least one of said first and second pluralities of design component samples; and

selecting at least one design component sample from each of said first and second pluralities of design component samples to form a decorating scheme.

14. The method of selecting a decorating scheme of claim 13, wherein the design component collection is one of a plurality of design component collections and the method further comprises the step of selecting one design component collection from said plurality of design component collections based upon preferences of a consumer.

15. The method of selecting a decorating scheme of claim 14, wherein the step of selecting one design component collection from said plurality of design component collections based upon preferences of a consumer comprises obtaining said preferences of said consumer by eliciting from said consumer responses to questions directed at determining style preferences.

16. The method of selecting a decorating scheme of claim 13, wherein said design component collection further comprises a binding mechanism adapted to bind said first plurality of design component samples adjacent said second plurality of design component samples so that at least one of each of said first plurality and said second plurality can be viewed together, the method further comprising the step of moving said first design component sample of at least one of said first and second pluralities of design component samples about said binding mechanism.

17. The method of selecting a decorating scheme of claim 16, wherein the step of moving said first design component sample about said binding mechanism comprises rotating said first design component sample about an axis of said binding mechanism.

18. The method of selecting a decorating scheme of claim 13, wherein the design component collection further comprises a third plurality of design component samples disposed adjacent the second plurality of design component samples so that one design component sample from said third plurality is viewable with one design component sample of each of the first and second pluralities, and wherein:

the step of displaying a first design component sample further comprises the step of displaying a first design component sample of said third plurality of design component samples with said first design component samples of each of said first and second pluralities of design component samples;

the step of displaying a second design component sample comprises the step of displaying a second design component sample of at least one of said first, second, and third pluralities of design component samples; and

the step of selecting comprises selecting at least one design component sample from each of said first, second and third pluralities of design component samples to form a decorating scheme.

19. The method of selecting a decorating scheme of claim 18, wherein the design component collection further comprises a fourth plurality of design component samples disposed adjacent said third plurality of design component samples so that one design component sample from said fourth plurality is viewable with one design component sample of each of the first, second and third pluralities, and wherein:

the step of displaying a first design component sample further comprises the step of displaying a first design component sample of said fourth plurality of design component samples together with said first design component samples of each of said first, second and third pluralities of design component samples;

the step of displaying a second design component sample comprises the step of displaying a second design component sample of at least one of said first, second, third, and fourth pluralities of design component samples; and

the step of selecting comprises selecting at least one design component sample from each of said first, second, third and fourth pluralities of design component samples to form a decorating scheme.

20. A method of fabricating a design components guide, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of design components based on a decorating style;

forming a first array of design component samples from said plurality of design components;

forming a second array of design component samples from said plurality of design components; and

binding said first and second arrays so that at least one design component sample of each of said first and second arrays are viewable together.

21. The method of fabricating a design components guide of claim 20, the method further comprising:

forming a third array of design component samples from said plurality of design components; and

binding said third array adjacent said second array so that at least one design component sample from each of said first, second and third arrays are viewable together.

22. The method of fabricating a design components guide of claim 21, wherein said steps of forming said first, second and third arrays comprises forming said first, second and third arrays so that each array comprises the same design component samples.

23. The method of fabricating a design components guide of claim 22, wherein said steps of forming said first, second and third arrays comprises organizing said first array in a first sequence, organizing said second array in a second sequence, and organizing said third array in a third sequence, wherein said first sequence, said second sequence and said third sequence are different.

24. The method of fabricating a design components guide of claim 21, the method further comprising:

forming a fourth array of design component samples; and

binding said fourth array adjacent said third array so that at least one design component sample from each of said first, second, third and fourth arrays are viewable together.

25. The method of fabricating a design components guide of claim 24, wherein said first array, said second array and said third array comprise the same design component samples and said fourth array comprises design component samples different from said first, second and third arrays.

26. The method of fabricating a design components guide of claim 20, the step of binding comprising spiral binding said first and second arrays.

27. An apparatus for viewing a plurality of design components, the apparatus comprising:

a first plurality of design component samples, at least one design component sample of said first plurality adapted to be rotated about an axis;

a second plurality of design component samples disposed adjacent said first plurality of design component samples, at least one design component sample of said second plurality adapted to be rotated about said axis; and

a third plurality of design component samples disposed adjacent said second plurality of design component samples, at least one design component sample of said third plurality adapted to be rotated about said axis,
wherein said first plurality, said second plurality and said third plurality are configured such that said at least one design component sample of each of said first plurality, said second plurality and said third plurality can be viewed together.

28. The apparatus for viewing a plurality of design components of claim 27, wherein said first plurality of design component samples, said second plurality of design component samples and said third plurality of design component samples each comprise samples of a design component selected from the group of design components comprising colors, textures, patterns and materials.

29. The apparatus for viewing a plurality of design components of claim 27, wherein said first plurality of design component samples, said second plurality of design component samples and said third plurality of design component samples comprise the same design component samples.

30. The apparatus for viewing a plurality of design components of claim 29, wherein said first plurality of design component samples are configured in a first sequence, said second plurality of design component samples are configured in a second sequence and said third plurality of design component samples are configured in a third sequence and said first sequence, said second sequence and said third sequence are different.

31. The apparatus for viewing a plurality of design components of claim 27, further comprising a fourth plurality of design component samples disposed adjacent said third plurality of second design component samples, at least a first design component sample of said fourth plurality adapted to be rotated about said axis, wherein at least a second design component sample of said fourth plurality can be viewed together with at least one design component sample of each of said first plurality, said second plurality said third plurality.

32. The apparatus for viewing a plurality of design components of claim 31, wherein said first plurality of design component samples, said second plurality of design

component samples and said third plurality of design component samples comprise the same design component samples and said fourth plurality of design component samples comprises design component samples different from said first, second and third pluralities of design component samples.